

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **909**



Introduced by **Hon. Bernadette S. Barbers**

**AN ACT DEFINING POLITICAL DYNASTY AND PROHIBITING THE
ESTABLISHMENT THEREOF**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enduring dominance of a select few families in wielding political power, commonly referred to as political dynasties, has long been a pressing concern in numerous democratic societies. This phenomenon undermines fundamental principles such as fairness, equality, and accountability in governance, as it perpetuates a system where access to political office is largely determined by family connections rather than merit or broad public support.

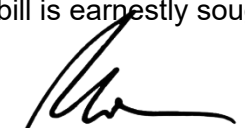
Political dynasties typically arise when members of a family hold multiple political positions over successive generations, creating a significant influence over electoral politics and policymaking. These families often maintain control through a combination of name recognition, access to resources, and established networks of support.

The impetus behind the passage of this legislation arises from the urgent necessity to address the detrimental impacts of political dynasties on the democratic process and societal well-being at large. By defining the concept of political dynasties and prohibiting their establishment, this law aims to dismantle entrenched systems of privilege and foster a more fair and balanced electoral landscape.

The definition outlined in this legislation serves to clarify the parameters under which political dynasties operate, ensuring that the prohibition encompasses individuals within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity. This specification is designed to prevent the excessive concentration of political influence within closely knit family circles, thereby fostering greater diversity and representation in public office.

In essence, the enactment of this measure signifies a meaningful stride towards advancing transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance. By curtailing the sway of political dynasties, our aim is to fortify democratic institutions, stimulate political competition, and ultimately, uphold the best interests of the constituents we are elected to serve.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. BERNADETTE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as "*The Anti-Political Dynasty Act of 2025*".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to guarantee equal access and opportunity to public office and service to the public. To achieve this objective, the State also asserts its policy to forbid political dynasties as hereinafter defined, with the aim of averting the consolidation of political authority in a select few individuals.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall be used:

- (a) "*Political Dynasty*" – refers to the concentration, consolidation or perpetuation of public office and political power by persons related to one another.
- (b) "*Political Dynasty Relationship*" – refers to the situation where a person who is the spouse or a relative within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of an incumbent elective official holds or runs for an elective office simultaneously with the incumbent elective official within the same city and/or province or occupies the same office immediately after the term of office of the incumbent elective official.

A political dynasty shall also be deemed to exist where two (2) or more persons who are spouses or are related within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity run simultaneously for elective public office within the same city and/or province, even if neither is so related to an incumbent elective official.

- (c) "*Spouse*" – refers to the legal or common law wife or husband of the incumbent elective official.

- (d) "*Second Civil Degree of Consanguinity or Affinity*" – refers to the degree of relationship by blood or affinity of a person with his/her brother or sister, direct ascendant or direct descendant, whether legitimate or illegitimate, full or half blood, including their spouses.
- (e) "*Term Limits*" – refers to the maximum term limits for elected public officials as provided for in the Constitution.
- (f) "*Running for an Elective Office*" – refers to the period that commences upon the filing of the certificate of candidacy by a candidate with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).
- (g) "*Holding an Elective Office*" – refers to period that commences from the moment the public official takes his or her oath of office.

SEC. 4. *Applicability.* – This Act shall be applicable to the next elections and to all subsequent elections thereafter. In the case of incumbent elected officials who have political dynasty relationships with one another in the same city and/or province, they shall be allowed to run in all subsequent elections until they reach their term limits as provided by law.

SEC. 5. *Persons Covered; Prohibited Candidates.* – No spouse, or person related within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, whether legitimate or illegitimate, full or half blood, to an incumbent elective official seeking re-election shall be allowed to hold or run for any elective office in the same **[municipality]**, city and/or province in the same election.

In case the constituency of the incumbent elective official is national in character, the above relatives shall be disqualified from running only within the same province where the former is a registered voter.

In case where none of the candidates is related to an incumbent elective official within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, but are related to one another within the said prohibited degree, they, including their spouses, shall be disqualified from holding or running for any local elective office within the same province in the same election.

In all cases, no person within the prohibited civil degree of relationship to the incumbent shall immediately succeed to the position of the latter.

SEC. 6. *Statement with the Commission on Elections.* – Any person running for any elective public office shall file a sworn statement with the COMELEC that he or she does not have a political dynasty relationship with an incumbent elective official running for an elective public office in the same city and/or province other than that of the position earlier mentioned.

SEC. 7. *Period for Filing Petition for Disqualification.* – Any citizen of voting age, candidate or duly registered political party, organization, or coalition of political parties may file with the COMELEC, after the last day for filing of certificates of candidacy and before proclamation, a petition to disqualify a candidate on grounds provided for under Section 5 hereof.

SEC. 8. *Summary Proceedings.* – The petition shall be heard and decided summarily by the COMELEC, after due notice and hearing, and its decision shall be executory after the lapse of five (5) days from receipt thereof by the losing party.

SEC. 9. *Effect of Violation of the Prohibition.* – The COMELEC shall, upon the filing of a verified petition of any interested party, deny due course to any certificate of candidacy filed in violation of this Act and the votes cast for the disqualified candidate, if any, shall not be counted nor shall such candidate be proclaimed nor be qualified to assume office.

Violation of this Act and the rules and regulations of the COMELEC issued to implement this Act shall also constitute an election offense punishable under the first and second paragraphs of Section 264 of the Omnibus Election Code (Batasang Pambansa Blg. 881).

SEC. 10. *Effect of Petition if Unresolved Before Completion of Canvass.* – If the petition, for reasons beyond the control of the COMELEC, cannot be decided before the completion of the canvass, the votes cast for the respondent shall be included in the counting and canvassing: Provided however, that if the basis of such disqualification is strong, his or her proclamation shall be suspended notwithstanding the fact that he or she received the winning number of votes in the election.

In the event a candidate disqualified under this Act shall have been proclaimed and has assumed office, his or her political dynasty relationship shall be a ground for disqualification in appropriate quo warranto or other proceedings.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* – The COMELEC shall promulgate the rules and regulation for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC.13. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, all the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,